

Remarks/Arguments:**Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b):**

The Examiner has allowed claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12-14, and 29, yet has maintained the rejection of claims 15, 17, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Grim et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,996,979). The Examiner notes, however, that claims 16, 18-23, and 25-28 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. The Applicant has amended claims 15 and 24 by incorporating the limitations of claim 16 into original claim 15 and the limitations of claim 25 into original claim 24, respectively. Claims 16, 17, and 25 have been cancelled. Claims 18-20 and 26-27 have been amended by removing their dependency upon the cancelled claims. In view of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 15 and 24, as amended, are now allowable over the cited art, including claims 18-23 and 26-28 dependent thereon, in addition to claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12-14, and 29, which the Examiner has already indicated are allowed in the Examiner's Action.

Change in Correspondence Address:

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Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims, as amended, are patentable in view of the cited art, and thus are in proper condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

1/3/05




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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on January 3, 2005 at 703-872-9306.



Laura G. Barrow